

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 PC-01 AID-05 MCT-01
USSS-00 SCS-06 /086 W
-----043499 191615Z /75

O R 191548Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2919
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9293

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS PINS LG IT
SUBJECT: SHABA INCURSIONS

1. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION MAY 19, MFA DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS RACHELE SAID THAT ITALIANS BELIEVE THAT SHABA FIGHTING CURRENTLY UNDER WAY INVOLVES MORE INDIGENOUS REBELS AND FEWER INFILTRATORS THAN LAST YEAR'S CONFLICT. REPORTS OF FAZ SUCCESSES AGAINST REBELS GAVE SOME HOPE THAT "FOR ONCE," MOBUTU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DEFEAT REBELS ON HIS OWN WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL OUTSIDE HELP. LONG-TERM HOPE FOR MOBUTU RESTS ON HIS WILLINGNESS TO ADDRESS HIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. WHILE ITALIANS SUPPORT PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IN CASE OF ZAIRE, A SUCCESSFUL REBELLION FROM WITHIN WOULD BE, FROM GOI POINT OF VIEW, ESSENTIALLY INTERNAL QUESTION. AS ITALIANS HOLD NO PARTICULAR BRIEF FOR MOBUTU, THEY WOULD RECOGNIZE A MOVEMENT WHICH SUCCESSFULLY TOOK POWER, SHOWED ITSELF IN CONTROL OF TERRITORY, AND PROMISED TO RESPECT INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS OF PREVIOUS REGIME.
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2. AS TO EVACUATION OF FOREIGNERS, RACHELE SAID THAT GOI HOPES THAT APPROXIMATELY 50 ITALIANS IN KOLWEZI WILL BE BROUGHT OUT ALONG WITH OTHER RESIDENT FOREIGNERS. GARDNER

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NNN

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